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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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LG/NAIROBI

APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS ON THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS (ANSTI)

Note by the secretariat

1. At the inaugural meeting of the ANSTI which took place at the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology in Africa, Nairobi, on 9 and 10 August 1988, a request was made by the Council that in addition to the host country Kenya, another member State, to be appointed by the ECA Conference of Ministers, should sit on the Governing Council of the organization.

2. The purpose of this note is to provide background information on ANSTI and to request the Conference to appoint a member State to sit on the Council in response to the request.

A. What is ANSTI?

3. The African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) is a network of African institutions engaged in university-level training and research in the field of science and technology. Its present membership includes most facilities of science and technology and some research centres and institutes in Africa south of the Sahara. 1/ ANSTI seeks to promote training and research in the scientific and technological disciplines by providing faculties with closer co-operation and sharing of resources of the member institutions. It was conceived as means of implementing some of the recommendations of the first Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development in Africa (CASTAFRICA I) and has been found to be in full accord in the aspirations and strategies set out in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa. 2/

B. Objectives of ANSTI

(a) Development objectives

4. The ANSTI project aims at bringing about close and active collaboration between African engineering, scientific and technological institutions involved in post-graduate training and promoting research and development in areas of developmental significance in the region.

(b) Immediate objectives

5. The Council agreed that the immediate objectives of ANSTI should be to:

(a) Establish a network administration centred at the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Africa (ROSTA), Nairobi;

1/ UNESCO groups the Northern African Arab States with the Asian Arab States into an Arab region distinct from the African region which comprises countries south of the Sahara.

2/ A/S-11/14 annex I.

(b) Establish disciplinary networks in nine engineering fields, viz: agricultural engineering and food processing technology; chemical engineering; civil engineering; electrical and electronic engineering; energy (solar and unconventional power sources); mechanical engineering; metallurgical engineering; mining and geological engineering; and water resources engineering; And in four basic science fields, viz: chemistry; earth science; mathematics (including statistics); and physics;

(c) Assist the development of the co-ordinating institutions to the extent possible within the budgetary provisions of the project;

(d) Promote mechanisms for strengthening communication within the network through meetings, seminars, publications and study tours;

(e) Promote training in technological research and post-graduate studies through exchange of professors, visits of academic staff, consultants; exchange of students and award of fellowships; continuing education of teachers through in-service schemes and fellowships; and support for acquisition of practical skills;

(f) Provide supplementary funds for research of regional relevance in the selected disciplines, within the provisions of the budget;

(g) Promote exploitation of research results beyond the laboratory stage within the region.

(c) Special consideration

6. To the extent possible, special consideration is given for:

(a) Integration of women into the development process, through the award of fellowships and exchange of students and teachers;

(b) Support for the preservation of improvement of environmental conditions, through the assistance of experts and consultants;

(c) Needs of countries without national engineering institutions will also be catered for by the network. Post-graduate and research students from these countries will be allowed to benefit from the fellowship schemes and research programmes.

7. ANSTI and ECA have co-operated successfully throughout the life of ANSTI and have jointly implemented some projects on setting up training facilities for African engineers. This co-operation will be enhanced with the ECA Conference of Ministers and the ECA secretariat being members of the Governing Council.

C. ANSTI Governing Council

8. The inaugural meeting of the Governing Council of ANSTI was held on 9 and 10 August 1990.

9. The purpose of the inaugural meeting was to establish ANSTI as an autonomous organization with its own Governing Council at which UNESCO, the sponsoring organization, and other international organizations would be represented. The inaugural meeting established the composition of the Governing Council as follows: one representative each from OAU, ECA, the Association of African Universities; the Host Government; the ECA Conference of Ministers; UNESCO; ADB; each major donor agency; business and industry; Deans of Faculties of Sciences; Deans of Faculties of Engineering as well as one eminent African Engineer representing the Federation of African Engineering Association and one eminent African scientist representing the Pan-African Union of Science and Technology (PUST).

10. It was during the inaugural meeting that the Council recommended that apart from the host country, Kenya, another member State should be represented on the Governing Council. It is requested that the ECA Conference of Ministers should appoint such a representative member State to fill the post as indicated in the list above.

D. The Functions of ANSTI Governing Council

11. The functions of the ANSTI Governing Council will be fully stated in the constitution of the organization which is still being finalized, but a synopsis of what was discussed at the meeting is given below.

12. The ANSTI Governing Council shall be the supreme policy-making organ of ANSTI and shall elect one of its members as the Chairman for a period of four years. The Council shall have ordinary meetings at least once every two years and shall formulate its own rules of procedure. It shall in particular:

(a) Determine the general principles and policies governing the activities of ANSTI;

(b) Mobilize funds for the operations of ANSTI;

(c) Liaise with the governments of the participating countries in furtherance of the objectives of ANSTI;

(d) Promote and regulate the relations of ANSTI with other organizations both within and outside the region;

(e) Consider and approve:

(i) the admission of new participating institutions;

(ii) the establishment of new disciplinary networks;

(c) actions which can promote and improve the network;

(f) Consider and approve the biennial budget and programme of activities of ANSTI;

(g) Receive and consider biennial reports including a financial statement on the activities and progress of ANSTI from the ANSTI secretariat;

(h) Exercise general superintendence over the affairs of ANSTI;

(i) Submit through its Chairman a biennial report to the governments of ANSTI member States on the activities of ANSTI;

(j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary, desirable or incidental to the achievement of the objectives of ANSTI.